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ABSTRACT

The study, prepared for the Learning Resources Branch (LRB) of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), includes a brief history of library statistical programs of the Office of Education and the National NCES, 1870-1978; the uses of library statistics by the Office of Libraries and Learning Resources (OLLR) of the Office of Education (OE)/HEW; the cooperation of NCES with other federal agencies and libraries, such as the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, the Federal Library Committee of the Library of Congress, the National Commission on New Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works and the Copyright Office, the National Library of Medicine, the National Agricultural Library, the Department of Interior, and the Department of State; the cooperation with national library organizations and associations; other users and uses of NCES library data; and conclusions and recommendations, which provide support for the information collected by NCES and suggest surveys that NCES should conduct at various intervals. Appendices contain copies of correspondence from users mentioned in the report, the UNESCO recommendations regarding publishing and library statistics, and survey instruments used for college and university libraries and public libraries. (Author/JD)

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USES AND USERS OF LIBRARY STATISTICS OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

by

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This report was prepared for the National Center for Education Statistics by Dr. Robert D. Little, chairperson and professor of Library Science at Indiana State University. Persons undertaking such projects under Government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their professional judgment. This report, therefore, does not necessarily represent positions or policies of the Department, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

USES AND USERS OF NCES LIBRARY STATISTICS

Introduction

From August to November of 1977, I was on assignment from Indiana State University to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) under the provisions of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970. One of my assignments as Library Program Specialist in the Learning Resources Branch of NCES was to prepare a study of the programs of the Learning Resources Branch (LRB). This study was suggested in an article in the May 1977 issue of the Statistical Reporter[1] which contained the following paragraph regarding NCES's programs for collecting library statistics:

> The Library General Information Survey (LIBGIS) collects systematic data on virtually all types of libraries in the United States. Information on resources (both print and nonprint media), expenditures, staffing, facilities and hours of services has been collected on public school libraries/media centers, public libraries, and college and university libraries. Arrangements are currently being completed for the collection of complementary data which will round out the statistics on library resources. Included will be a Survey of Library Cooperatives, Consortia and Networks; a Survey of State Libraries and State Library Agencies; and a Study of Libraries Serving Commerce and Industry. While the relative level of effort expended by NCES on library statistics is not substantial, the need for the expansive current and proposed program of library statistics has not been adequately justified in the face of unaddressed, competing priorities. It is recommended that a study of the uses and users of the information gathered on libraries be conducted as a basis for determining appropriate levels of effort to be expended and types of data to be collected on the role and contribution of libraries to the educational system.

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[1]"Education Statistics," Statistical Reporter, no. 77-8 (May 1977), p. 332.

Methodology

In order to present current and accurate information on the uses and users of the library data generated by the NCES Learning Resources Branch, the following approaches were used:

1. Pertinent documents in the Office of the Learning Resources Branch were reviewed.
2. The literature relating to this topic was exhaustively read.
3. Abstracts for all ERIC documents relating to library statistics for academic libraries, public libraries, school library media centers and special libraries were studied. Appropriate documents were reviewed in greater detail.
4. Interviews were conducted with members of the Office of Libraries and Learning Resources of the Office of Education who direct programs which depend on the surveys conducted by NCES. Among these were:

   Elizabeth H. Hughey, Chief, State and Public Library Services Branch, Office of Libraries and Learning Resources

   Dorothy A. Kittel, State and Public Library Services Branch, Office of Libraries and Learning Resources

   Milbrey Jones, Education Program Specialist, School Media Resources Branch, Office of Libraries and Learning Resources

   Mary Helen Mahar, Chief, School Media Resources Branch, Office of Libraries and Learning Resources

   Frank Stevens, Chief, Library Education and Postsecondary Resources Branch, Office of Libraries and Learning Resources

5. Interviews were conducted with other primary users of the data such as:

   Alphonse F. Trezza, Executive Director of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

   Roy H. Millenson, representing the Association of American Publishers

   Robert W. Frase, Assistant Executive Director and Economist, National Commission on New Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works

6. Extensive discussions were held with the staff of the Learning Resources Branch.

7. Some correspondence was written and received from interested parties.

8. Further information was supplied to me after I returned to Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana to complete this report. Included in these materials were the correspondence between Mr. Trezza and Mr. Duncan; a letter by Mr. John G. Lorenz, Executive Director of the Association of Research Libraries; and a letter by Mr. John Dessauer, representing the publishing industry.

This report has been organized as follows:

A. A Brief History of Library Statistical Programs of the Office of Education and the National Center for Education Statistics: 1870-1978.

B. The Uses of Library Statistics by the Office of Libraries and Learning Resources of the Office of Education/HEW.

C. Cooperation of NCES with other Federal Agencies and Federal Libraries.

1. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

2. The Federal Library Committee at the Library of Congress

3. The National Commission on New Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works and the Copyright Office

4. The National Libraries

   a. The National Library of Medicine

   b. The National Agricultural Library

5. The Department of Interior

6. The Department of State

D. Cooperation with National Library Organizations and Associations.

E. Other Users and Uses of NCES Library Data.

F. Conclusions and Recommendations.

G. Appendixes.

A Brief History of Library Statistical Programs of The Federal Government: 1870-1978

Prior to 1870 a few library surveys of limited national scope were conducted. The first official and continuing series of library statistics appeared in "The Report of the Commissioner of Education...for the Year 1870." In 1876 a comprehensive survey of public, academic and school libraries was published by the Bureau of Education, then a part of the Department of the Interior. This 1,187 page report contained more textual than tabular statistical material but established the Federal government as the source for library statistics.

Until 1938 library surveys were conducted by statistical employees of the Office of Education. Statistics were gathered for public and school libraries annually and occasionally at longer intervals. Surveys of college and university libraries were infrequently conducted.

In 1938 a separate library unit was established in the Office of Education and was put in charge of all library activities including library statistics. Between 1938 and 1957 surveys for different types of libraries were conducted on a four to six year cycle. Publications were prepared from this data.

Between 1958 and 1966 the financial support and the professional and statistic staff was substantially increased. College and university libraries was surveyed annually. Public and school libraries were surveyed every four or five years.

In 1966 with the establishment of the National Center for Educational Statistics, the responsibility for library statistics was transferred to a separate library statistics unit within NCES. Since then the responsibility for library statistics has remained in NCES.

During 1966, NCES and the American Library Association (ALA) co-sponsored in Chicago a National Conference on Library Statistics to which representatives of other library associations were invited. This conference recommended a comprehensive program for the systematic collection of statistics of all types of libraries and the standardization of library statistics and definitions and quantifications. As a result of these recommendations, NCES contracted with the American Library Association for a study, released in May 1970 as "Planning for a Nationwide System of Library Statistics"(OE-15070), to provide general guidelines for a national library data system.

During 1971-72, a study of "Library and Information Center Statistics and Data Practices" at the national, state, and local levels was conducted by a contractor according to NCES specifications. During 1972-73, a Library General Information Survey (LIBGIS) demonstration project was conducted in 6 states and a LIBGIS state participation project was undertaken in 15 states to develop and test the LIBGIS survey instruments for all types of libraries. The results of these preliminary studies and the "National Plan" were combined in the development of the LIBGIS system, which is smaller in scope but similar to the HEGIS and ELSEGIS systems of NCES.

LIBGIS has three major aspects: (1) collection of comparable items of basic data simultaneously from the three key types of libraries (public, college and university, and public elementary and secondary school/media centers) on a biennial basis, and from other, special libraries (federal, state, commerce and industry and national associations and organizations) on a 4 to 6 year periodic basis; (2) cooperation with state agencies

in the phases of survey development, data collection, and manual editing; and (3) sharing collected and edited data with relevant state agencies to produce uniform statistics to users at the local, state, and national levels, in both the public and private sectors.

In FY 1975, LIBGIS started to collect comparable data for all categories of publicly and privately controlled libraries.

LIBGIS I included surveys of public libraries (fiscal year 1974), public school library media centers (fall 1974), and academic libraries (fall 1975, also a component of HEGIS X).

LIBGIS II covered the following surveys: Cooperatives, Consortia and Networks, Academic Libraries (fall 1976), State Library Agencies (fall 1976), State Libraries Serving State Governments (fall 1976), Special Libraries in Commerce and Industry (fall 1976).

LIBGIS III covered college and university libraries (fall 1977), public libraries (FY 1977-78) (fall 1977). Federal libraries,(1977-78) and the Public Library Universe Update.

LIBGIS IV covers the Survey of Public School Libraries Media Centers (1978), the final part of the Survey of Library Cooperatives, Consortia and Networks, the National Library Data Base and Terminology Handbook and a Feasibility Study concerning Public Library Users and Uses.

The studies and surveys covered by these four survey cycles fall into two categories, the library data surveys and related supplementary studies.

Information collected in the library data surveys slightly by type of library but all include information on:

1. Library collections, including number of books, periodicals and other materials.
2. Operating expenditures, including expenditures for salaries, materials and other expenditures.
3. Staff data, including information on full-time, part-time and full-time equivalencies with additional information on sex and education of the staff.

4. Use of library materials including categories such as total number of loans, reference transactions, etc.

5. Physical facilities which vary for each type of library.

At present the only group of libraries not surveyed which are included in the Office of Education Programs are the nonpublic elementary and secondary school library media centers and research libraries. The Learning Resources Branch looks forward to surveys covering these libraries and Special Libraries of National Associations and Organizations in the next two survey cycles. With these additions, the first complete coverage of all types of libraries would be completed some 100 years after the first surveys were undertaken.

The Uses of Library Statistics by The Office of Libraries and Learning Resources of The Office of Education/HEW

Four major programs in the Office of Libraries and Learning Resources of the Office of Education depend upon the statistics gathered by the Learning Resources Branch of the National Center for Education Statistics. They are P.L. 89-517, the Library Services and Construction Act with a fiscal 1978 appropriation of $56,900,000 for Title I and $3,337,000 for Title III; Title IV-B of P.L. 93-380, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act with a fiscal 1978 appropriation of $167,500,000; P.L. 89-329, the Higher Education Act with the following allocations: For Title A (College Library Resources: $10,000,000); for Title B (Research and Development: $1,000,000; Training: $2,000,000); for Title C (Research Libraries: $5,000,000) or a total of $18,000,000. Two other acts are P.L. 93-380 the Educational TV and Radio Program with FY 78 allocation of $5,000,000 and P.L. 87-477, the Educational Broadcasing Facilities Program with a FY 1978 allocation of $18,000,000.

Planning and reviewing of these programs amounting in FY 1978 to $268.7 million rely on the data furnished by NCES. The files of the Learning Resources Branch contain letters from Congressman Carl D. Perkins, Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, requesting that library statistical surveys be conducted in the basic areas of academic, public and school libraries.

A letter from Senator John McClellan of May 17, 1976 requests the Secretary of HEW to conduct surveys of State Library Agencies, Special Libraries Serving State Governments and Commerce and Industry, and Surveys of Library Cooperatives and Networks.

Congressman Perkins stated in his letter of March 4, 1976 "This kind of information is very useful to the Committee on Education and Labor as it reviews the library programs administered by the U.S. Office of Education". Mr. Perkins commented in a letter to the Assistant Secretary for Education that "library surveys are even more necessary now that Congress has passed and the President has signed into law the measure calling for a White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services... The basic statistical information gathered by the NCES library surveys will fulfill a most important function in this process of State and National reassessment of library services".

In meeting the needs of Congress and the program staffs of the Office of Libraries and Learning Resources, the Learning Resources Branch of NCES conducts periodically surveys of academic, public and school libraries. The time period between surveys has varied with surveys for academic libraries being conducted every year or two and surveys for public and school libraries recently being conducted at much longer intervals.

During the last two months of 1977 and the first months of 1978, Congress requested from the Office of Library and Learning Resources information on school library media centers, public libraries and college and university libraries which was based primarily on data from NCES surveys.

Cooperation of NCES With Other Federal Agencies and Federal Libraries

The NCES library statistics program traditionally cooperates with all federal agencies which have statistical data requirements. While not all activities are presented in detail because their requests change from year to year the agencies with major needs besides Congress and the Office of Education are the following:

1. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
2. The Federal Library Committee of the Library of Congress
3. The National Commission on New Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works and the Office of the Register of Copyright
4. The National Libraries
   a. The National Library of Medicine
   b. The National Agricultural Library
5. The Department of Interior
6. The Department of State

For simplicity of presentation, each of these agencies and their library data program needs are discussed in separate sections on the following pages.

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) has the primary responsibility for developing or recommending plans for and advising appropriate governments and agencies on ways to utilize most effectively the Nation's educational resources. One of its functions is to "conduct studies, surveys and analyses of the library and information needs of the Nation." The Commission relies on the data gathered by the Learning Resources Branch of the National Center for Education Statistics in preparing these studies. Mr. Alphonse F. Trezza, Executive Director of NCLIS, in a letter to Mr. Joseph W. Duncan, Director of the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, United States Department of Commerce, stated:[1]

> The Library Statistics Program of the National Center for Education Statistics has the full support of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. The Commission requires library data for its mission...and especially in support of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services scheduled for October 1979.
>
> The National Commission has used the tapes of the 1974 NCES surveys on academic, public, and school libraries to prepare its National Inventory of Library Needs, a major publication for the White House Conference. We will use the 1976-77 surveys for Part II of the Inventory on special libraries in commerce, industry, and state and Federal Government agencies. We expect to use the latest college, university, public and school library surveys to update the Inventory.

The Commission not only needs data on academic, public, and school libraries but also on special libraries in commerce and industry; Federal libraries; state libraries; and libraries consortia, cooperatives

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[1]Mr. Trezza asked that Mr. Duncan's survey be appended to this report (see Appendix B for correspondence between Mr. Trezza and Mr. Duncan) Mr. Duncan.

and networks. Regarding Federal libraries and the need for NCES to collect data Mr. Trezza stated in a letter of March 13, 1977, "As you know the Commission has a small staff and a very comprehensive responsibility for libraries, as stated in Public Law 91-345, Sec. 5. (a) (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6), which reads as follows:

> Sec. (5). (a) The Commission shall have the primary responsibility for developing or recommending overall plans for, and advising the appropriate governments and agencies on the policy set forth in section 2. In carrying out that responsibility, the Commission shall--
>
> (2) conduct studies, surveys, and analyses of the library and informational needs of the Nation, including the special library and informational needs of rural areas, of economically, socially, or culturally deprived persons, and of elderly persons, and the means by which these needs may be met through information centers, through the libraries of elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education, and through public, research, special, and other types of libraries;
>
> (3) appraise the adequacies and deficiencies of current library and information resources and services and evaluate the effectiveness of current library and information science programs;
>
> (4) develop overall plans for meeting national library and informational needs and for the coordination of activities at the Federal, state, and local levels, taking into consideration all of the library and informational resources of the Nation to meet those needs;
>
> (5) be authorized to advise Federal, state, local and private agencies regarding library and information sciences;
>
> (6) promote research and development activities which will extend and improve the Nation's library and information-handling capability as essential links in the national communications networks.

These functions are essential because they form the basis for the Commission's primary task, Sec. 5 (a) (1), which is to 'advise the President and the Congress on the implementation of national policy by such statements, presentations, and reports as it deems appropriate.'"

Federal Library Committee of the Library of Congress

The Federal Library Committee of the Library of Congress was established in 1965 under the umbrella of BOB Circular A-63 of March 2, 1964 and implemented by statements in the Federal Register of July 3, 1965 and June 1, 1973.

The purpose of this agency is to coordinate all library statistics activities within the Federal Government. NCES staff members meet during a 12-18 month period with representatives of the federal library community and develop a survey instrument which is sent to all libraries serving federal agencies. Part of the costs of these surveys are born by the Federal Library Committee, partly by NCES in a cooperative effort. In a letter of March 13, 1977, Mr. Trezza Executive Director of the National Commission made the following comments about the Survey of Federal Libraries in a letter to the Learning Resources Branch:

> Since we are to make recommendations concerning all libraries, we can't ignore the 2,300 Federal libraries which provide the primary information for all Federal agencies. In 1972, they employed about 6,300 staff members, spending $192 million in operation expenditures, and have holdings of over $60 million volumes. We expected to see this survey, which NCES conducted in 1967 and 1972, updated every five years and regret the slippage to a six-year cycle because we meant to use these data in connection with the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. We are beginning to doubt that final data will be available for this Conference which will plan the program for the library community for the next twenty-five years. We do hope that preliminary data will be made available, which we hope to distribute to the 500 participants.

National Commission on New Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works and the Copyright Office

The National Commission on New Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works as part of its mandate to assist in the development of guide-

lines on interlibrary photocopying, has the legislative requirement for the extent of photocopying practices.

To assist in collecting information to answer the questions on library photocopying practices, the Learning Resources Branch of NCES added to most surveys intiated during the last two years a section with six questions on copyright practices. These questions are:

> The number of items of photocopies of articles from periodicals made for users by the library staff;
>
> The number of items of photocopies from materials other than periodicals made by the library staff;
>
> The number of items of photocopies made in lieu of interlibrary loans provided to other libraries from periodicals;
>
> The number of items of photocopies made in lieu of interlibrary loans provided to other libraries from other materials;
>
> The number of items of photocopies received from other libraries of articles from periodicals;
>
> The number of items of photocopies received from other libraries of articles from other materials.

Advantages of obtaining this information through the NCES surveys are that they:

1. eliminate the need for a separate survey
2. reduce the cost of gathering data from the libraries already surveyed, thereby reducing the response burden
3. will be readily available to other users through the NCES publications and data tape programs.

When CONTU phases out in July 1978, the responsibility for procurement of the same data as well as all office functions will be assumed by the Register of Copyright in the Library of Congress. CONTU considers these questions so essential that they agreed to compensate NCES for their inclusion, data processing and tabulation.

The National Libraries

The National Library of Medicine administers the Medical Library Assistance Act and the National Library of Medicine with appropriations of $7,987,000 and $28,759,000 respectively.

The National Agricultural Library administers its program with FY 78 appropriations of $6,877,000.

During 1976 and 1977 these two agencies with combined appropriations of over $42 million approached NCES with the request to include their library surveys questions which would provide information their agencies require for their internal management and extramural programs.

(a) The National Library of Medicine

For the National Library of Medicine (NLM) three questions were added to several surveys. These questions were:

a. of the total holdings in the library the percent of current periodical subscription for the fall 1977 in health sciences

b. of the total holdings in the library the percent of book titles held at end of fiscal year 1977 in health sciences

c. of the total holdings in the library the percent of book titles held on microform at end of fiscal year 1977 in health sciences.

The responses will help the National Library of Medicine to identify the libraries with significant holdings in the field of the Health Sciences, so that NLM can assist in the expansion and improvement of their basic resources in this field, and will help NLM with the development of a national system of regional medical libraries.

(b) The National Agricultural Library

For the National Agricultural Library (NAL) the following questions were asked:

Does your library have approximately 50 or more current periodical subscriptions, Fall 1977, in the field of agriculture?

Does your library have approximately 500 or more titles of bookstock held at end of the fiscal year 1977, in the field of agriculture?

Does your library have a special collection of less than 50 current periodical subscriptions, Fall 1977, and/or less than 500 titles of bookstock held at the end of the fiscal year 1977, in the field of agriculture?

This information will help NAL to identify the libraries with significant holdings in the field of Argiculture and to assist with the organization and coordination of a national agricultural sciences information system for procuring, preserving, and disseminating agricultural information.

As in the case of the copyright questions, NCES is being compensated for inclusion of the data requirements by the two national libraries.

The Department of Interior

During FY 1978 the Secretary of Agriculture transferred all responsibilities for the administration of libraries on Indian reservations to the Library of the Department of Interior. This library requested that the 1978 NCES surveys of public libraries and the 1978 survey of public school library media centers be extended to Indian Reservations.

The use of the same survey forms will permit comparisons between the per capita resources, staffing and expenditures of two types of libraries throughout the states and those libraries which are located on Indian reservations.

The Department of State

NCES is the exclusive source of library statistics supplied by the Department of State to UNESCO (the United Nation's Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization) for publication in its annual Statistical Yearbook. In addition, the United States is a signatory to the 1964 and 1970 "Recommendation Concerning the International Standardization of Library Statistics" and the "Recommendation Concerning the International Standardization of Publishing Statistics" NCES shares with the Department of Commerce in the function of supplying publishing statistics to the Department of State for UNESCO.

Cooperation With National Library Organizations and Associations

Professional organizations in the field of library science and library educators rely upon the data collected by NCES in planning. For example, the information collected in public school library statistics in 1962 was instrumental in determining that school libraries would need federal aid in their development. The result was passage of the then Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The data of the college and university library surveys from 1958 to 1964 were essential in the funding of Title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965. The American Library Association testified to this in the relevant Congressional hearings.

The national professional organizations do not attempt to duplicate the information gathered by NCES, but to supplement it. John G. Lorenz, Executive Director of the Association of Research Libraries, in a letter to Joseph Dunkin stated:

> ARL Statistics have been designed and developed in conjunction with the surveys designed by the National Center for Educational Statistics, specifically library statistics of colleges and universities. The wealth of data contained in the NCES survey as well as the number and type of academic institutions covered constitute an essential complement to the statistical gathering activities of the ARL. Without the data and survey conducted by NCES, this Association, as well as a number of others, would be deprived of the major body of statistical data, which provides the comprehensive coverage and context, within which our data can be viewed and analyzed.

Over the years the Learning Resources Branch of NCES worked closely with nine committees of the American Library Association in developing surveys to meet the needs of the library community. LRB developed in cooperation with these committees the Library Statistics Handbook which

was published in 1966. This effort is presently updated in the Library Data Base Handbook Project. All surveys of the Learning Resources Branch are reviewed by one or several of these committees for each type of library.

NCES in cooperation with the Office of Libraries and Learning Resources in the Office of Education, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics initiated in 1972 a manpower study about the demand and supply of librarians. A seven year follow up study of this topic is now in the planning stage. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has used the information of this and all other NCES library surveys in their Educational Outlook Handbook. In addition the major library associations and library educators in over 300 schools rely heavily on these data because they base their plans and programs on them, and expand and contract their staffing and budgeting patterns in relation to this information.

Other Users of NCES Data

NCES data on libraries is considered primary source material by library researchers. Dissertations requiring the use of library statistics rely almost exclusively on those collected by NCES for information on number of libraries, collections, library staff, etc. The Office of Civil Rights has used NCES library data in a number of discrimination cases. (Appendix H16)

NCES data on libraries are used extensively by members of the publishing and other industries which service libraries. they are interested in information such as:

--the amount of materials added each year

--the expenditures for materials each year

--the types of materials added

--the number of libraries by type

--changes in acquisition patterns of various types of libraries

In addition library related industries such as publishers of magazines and newspapers and the producers of films, microfilms and audiovisual materials require library data because the 8,400 public libraries, the 2,400 federal libraries, and the 6-8,000 special libraries in commerce and industry and state governments are their primary customers.

Conclusions and Recommendations

After reviewing the current uses and users of information collected by NCES, the following conclusions have been reached:

1. There is a definite need for collecting library statistics at the national level. These statistics are necessary to:
    a. develop plans for the effective and efficient use of our library resources (a responsibility of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science)
    b. provide Congress with data necessary in both planning and evaluating the effects of library legislation (such as ESEA Title IV B, LSCA and HEA Titles II A and II B)
    c. provide the Office of Library and Learning Resources in the Office of Education with data to help them carry out their program responsibilities
    d. provide other government agencies with data necessary to accomplish their legislative mandates (the National Commission on New Technological Users of Copyrighted Works, the National Library of Medicine and the National Agricultural Library).
2. The data collected by NCES are not duplicate data collected by by another source. The Association of Research Libraries supplements for its own use the data collected by NCES but relies upon NCES data for the basic information. In addition some states collect data for public libraries at the state level. Attempts have been made by NCES to coordinate their

collecting of data with that of state library agencies. These attempts appear to be successful.

The above conclusions lead to the following recommendations regarding the collection of statistics on libraries by the LRB of NCES.

1. The Learning Resources Branch of NCES should conduct at least four to six surveys annually.
2. Surveys dealing with topics in support of the OE/OLLR programs should be conducted for public, school and academic libraries every two to three years and for other programs (i.e. research libraries) when needed.
3. Surveys of special libraries and state library agencies should be conducted on a three to four year cycle.
4. Special studies such as those dealing with terminology, networks, user studies, internal or management data and manpower should be conducted approximately every four to five years.
5. A review should be undertaken regarding the information to be collected. The LIBGIS project has successfully pointed out the value of collecting similar data from all types of libraries. However, the information collected needs to be reviewed based upon:
    a. the experience of the earlier LIBGIS projects and
    b. the unique characteristics of the various types of libraries.

    At present NCES has a contract with the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems in Boulder, Colorado which may be addressing itself to these problems.

6. NCES should collect data on user services as well as on collections, staff and facilities. The feasibility study presently being organized on users and services for public libraries is an example of this type of study.

It is hoped that these recommendations will be useful to NCES in planning the programs for collecting library data in the coming years. It is believed that these recommendations do not require a significant expansion of the library statistics budget of NCES.